

Interagency Global Change Information Portal (GCIP):

Progress and Plans

NCA Federal Advisory Committee
Meeting, August 2011



- Progress to date
 - Update on Vision, Strategy and Governance
 - Collaborative workspaces
- Next steps

The Next National Climate Assessment (NCA)

- **Sustainable process** with multiple products over time
- New topics, **cross-sectoral studies**
- Consistent national matrix of **indicators**
- Central coordination, multiple **partners**
- Regional and sectoral **networks** building assessment **capacity**
- Recognizes **international context**
- Engagement and communications focus
- **Web-based data and tools for decision support**
- Process workshops to establish **methodologies**

A Reminder of Why...

What are the drivers of this effort?

April meeting

- Overall problem: no single source of authoritative information for climate and global change
- NCA problem: Transparent, accessible, timely, connected
- Solution: integrated Global Change Information “portal” with NCA as initial focus

- Use the National Climate Assessment (NCA) to focus the initial scope
- The NCA is...
 - A starting point, extensible to interagency data
 - A testing ground for principles in action: transparency, traceability, usability, data quality...
 - A test case for connecting robust and federated data structures with appropriate user experiences
 - And the current NCA has a precursor: the 2009 assessment

Components of NCA web-presence

- **Content** – building off the new 2009 assessment
 - Main report (html and pdf downloads)
 - Links and access to all data and underlying material
 - Intervening reports (2014, 2015 etc)
 - Indicators/dashboard, map, (and other features)
 - Links to other sites (adaptation, climate services etc)
 - Reviews and responses?
 - Supplemental information and data?
- **Assessment process info:** newsletter, FAC members, meetings
 - Currently at <http://assessment.globalchange.gov>
 - Suggest that should be more embedded in assessment site proper (can better link workshop reports with resulting content, data guidance to authors with resulting data...or process with product)
 - Reviews and Responses?
- **Collaborative portals** for regional and sectoral teams
- **Federal Advisory Committee meeting details**
 - public site (NOAA - separate)

In the last several months:

- **An interagency team has outlined:**
 - a governance structure, an initial broad scope of portal, some operational principles
 - Identified advisory groups
- **The GCRP Principals have:**
 - Discussed the proposed approach
 - Have identified initial leads in the governance structure
- **NOAA has produced a website for the 2009 site that:**
 - Is currently behind a password
 - Begins to test out some options for transparency and accessibility
 - Provides a possible foundation for the next phase
 - Makes the 2009 assessment more available
- **Developed collaborative portals for regional and sectoral teams:**
 - SW group is testing, more are being developed
 - Aim to help technical input teams AND authors, and provide tracking

Committee on Environment and
Natural Resources and
Sustainability (CENRS)

U.S. Global Change
Research Program
(USGCRP)

U.S. Group on
Earth
Observations
(USGEO)

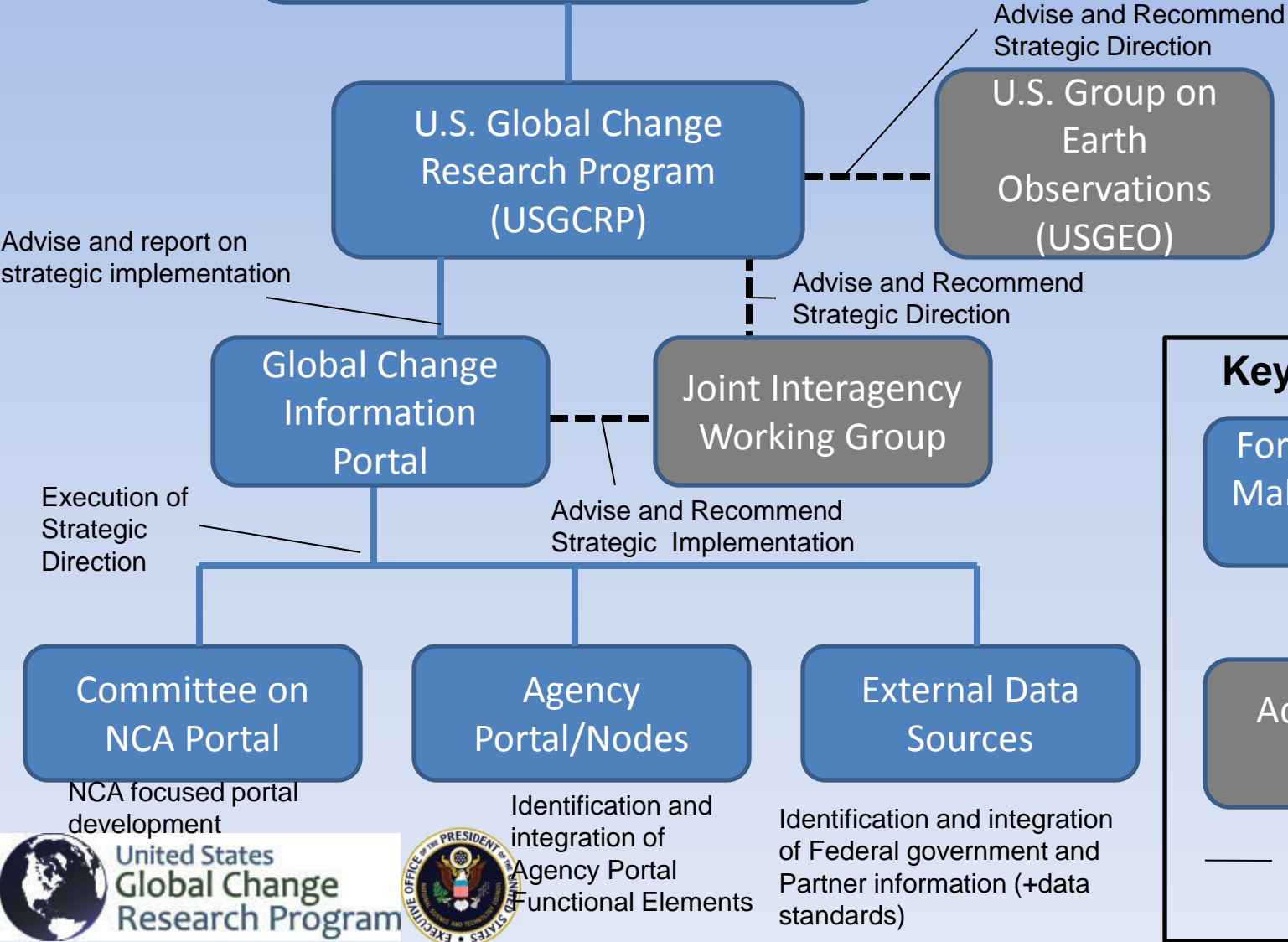
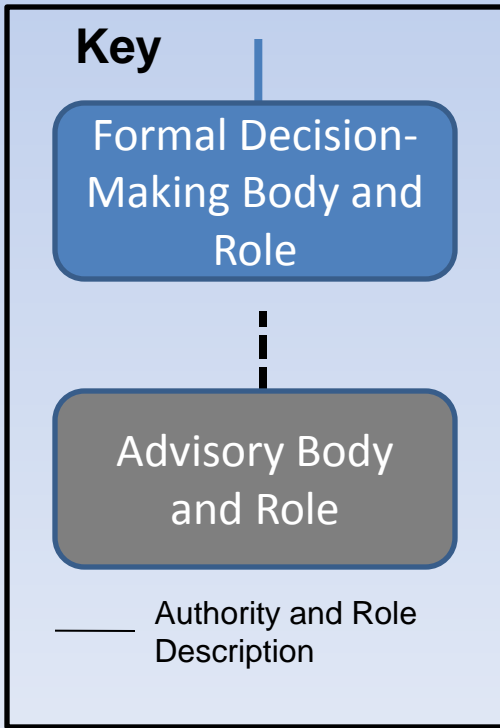
Global Change
Information
Portal

Joint Interagency
Working Group

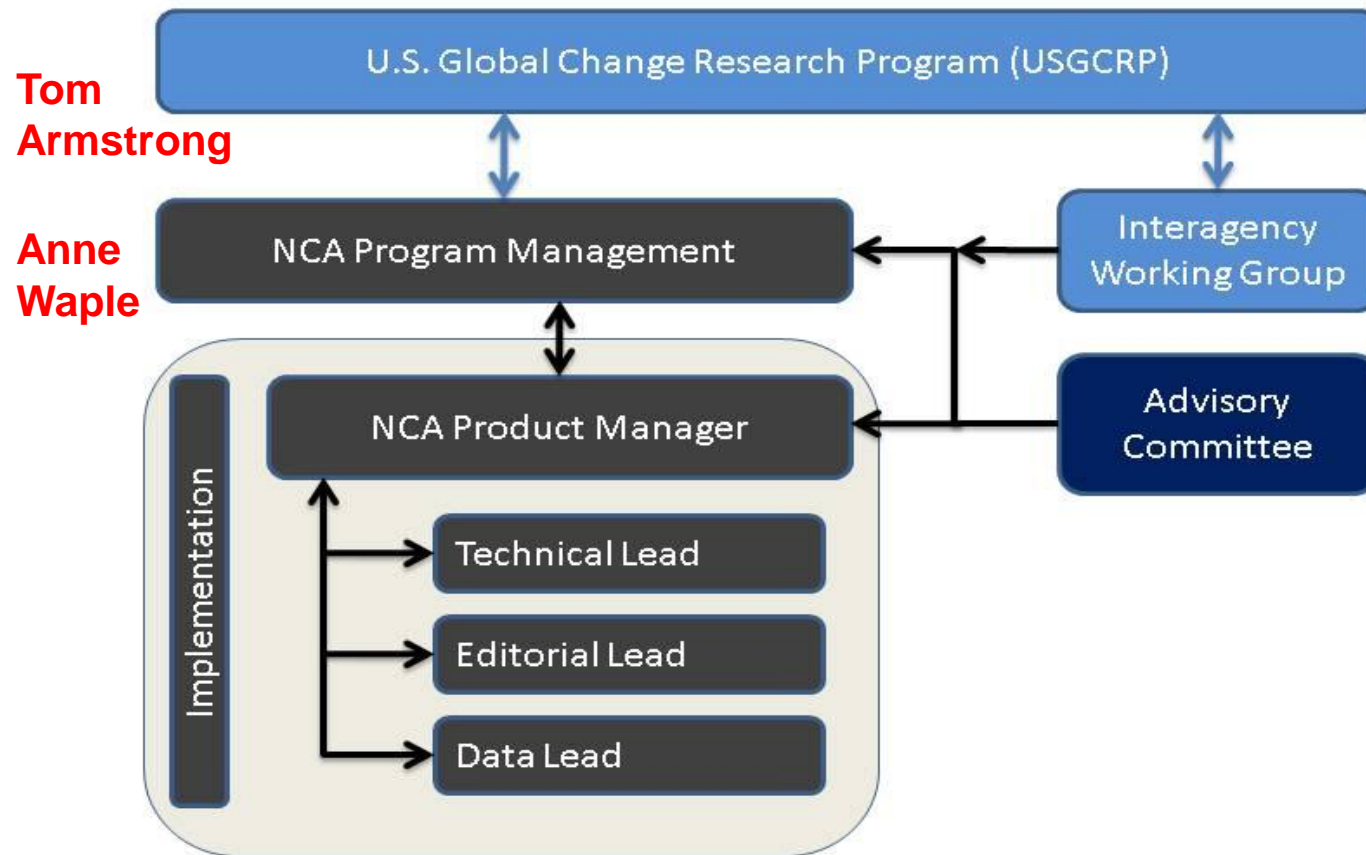
Committee on
NCA Portal

Agency
Portal/Nodes

External Data
Sources



Governance:



National Climate Assessment (NCA) Management





Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States 2009 Report

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Regions

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Use](#)

[Transportation](#)



Water



Energy



Transportation



Agriculture



Ecosystems



Human Health



Society

What is this report?

This report summarizes the science of climate change and the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. It is largely based on results of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP),¹ and integrates those results with related research from around the world. This report discusses climate-related impacts for various societal and environmental sectors and regions across the nation. It is an authoritative scientific report written in plain language, with the goal of better informing public and private decision making at all levels. (more)

Public NCA “portal”

Draft full NCA

Author Team Sites

Author Team Sites

Technical input sites

Technical input sites

Technical input sites

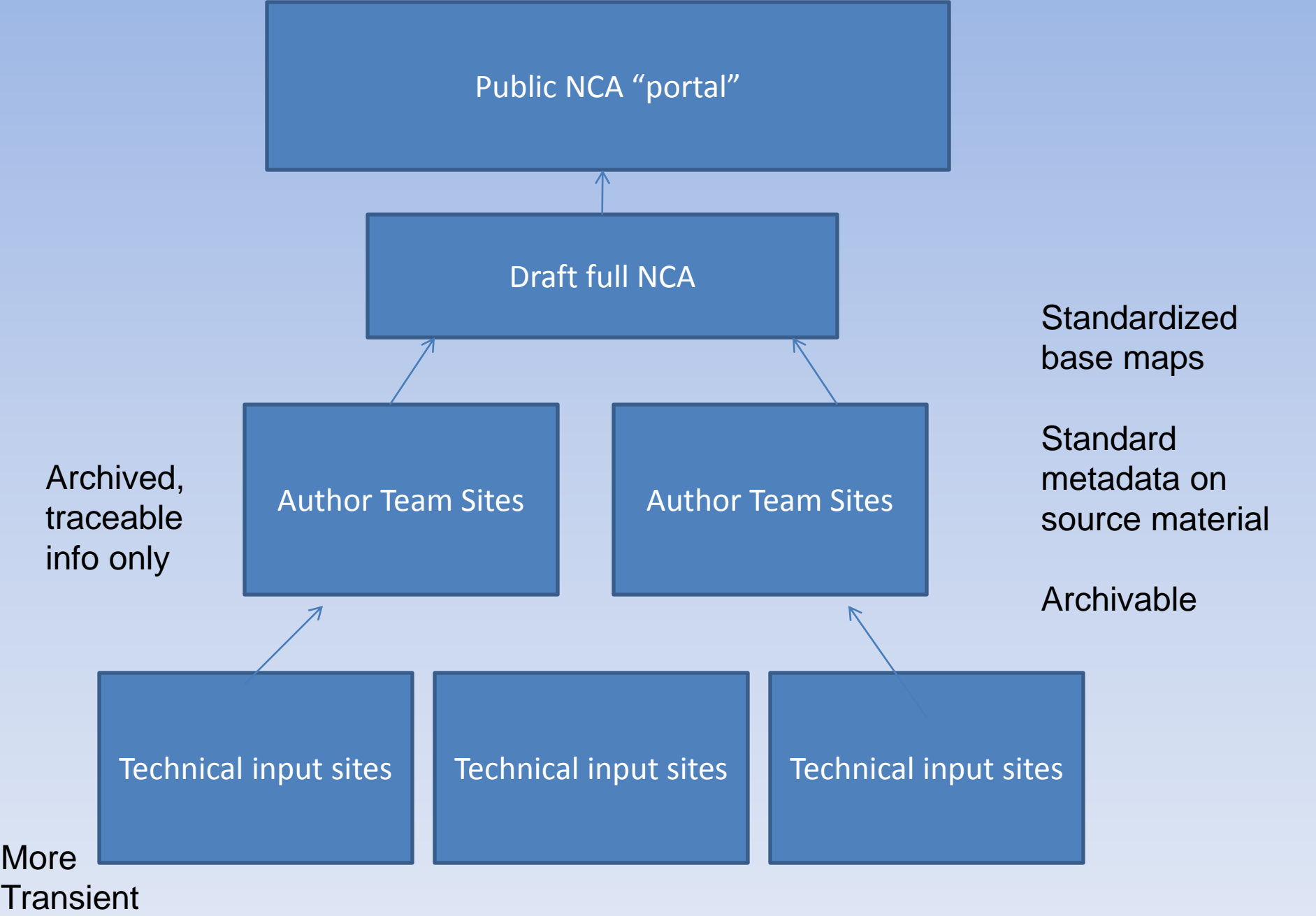
Standardized
base maps

Standard
metadata on
source material

Archivable

Archived,
traceable
info only

More
Transient



NCA Southwest Online Workspace - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

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http://www1.nemac.unca.edu/ncasouthwest/index.cfm?CFID=314742&CFTOKEN=81073742

Most Visited ClimateWatch Magazine Christine Kane's Blog WhiteHouse.gov OSTP

McAfee

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NCA Southwest Online Workspace

Edit and Upload Links

NCA Southwest Online Workspace

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Resource

Team



Photo Credit: Palacemusic

Welcome to the National Climate Assessment Southwest Online Workspace!

What is the purpose of this Online Workspace? This Online Workspace has been set up for team members to share and access documents, meeting notes, project goals and other resources. Users can share information and update the Online Workspace as needed.

How do I get help using this site? Please click the [Help](#) link above.

Who do I contact for further help? Please contact [Matt Hutchins](#).



This site is maintained by the University of North Carolina at Asheville's National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center and the RENCI @ UNC Asheville engagement site.

NCA Southwest Online Workspace

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Resource	Team
Help	
Web Resources	
Documents	
Images	
GIS Viewer	



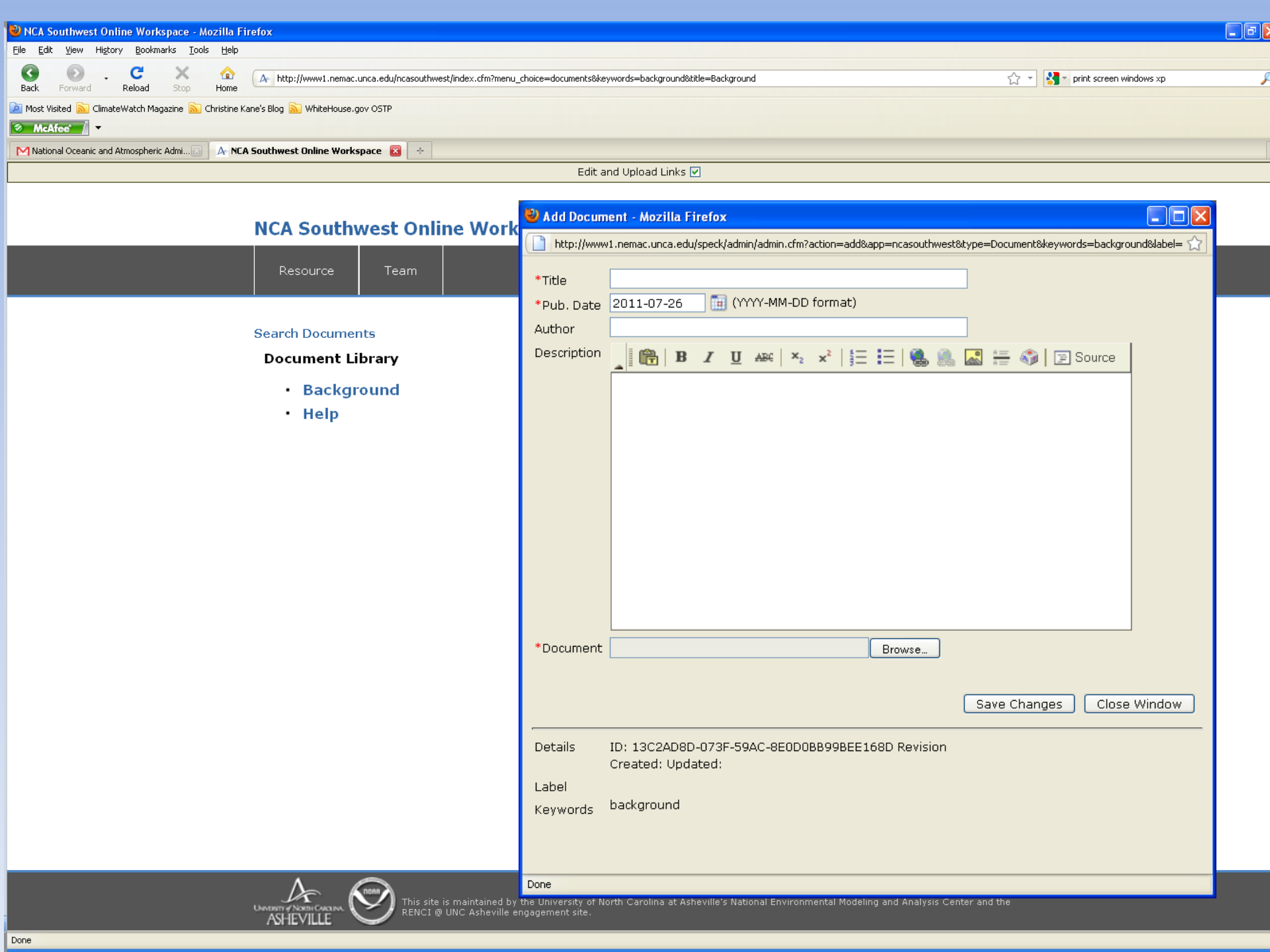
Photo Credit: Palacemus.

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Resource	Team
Help	
Web Resources	
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http://www1.nemac.unca.edu/ncasouthwest/index.cfm?menu_choice=images&keywords=maps&title=General Maps

Most Visited ClimateWatch Magazine Christine Kane's Blog WhiteHouse.gov OSTP

McAfee

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin... NCA Southwest Online Workspace

http://www1.nema...FTOKEN=81073742

Edit and Upload Links

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Resource

Team

Search Images

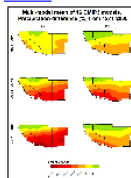
Categories

- ☐ Pictures
- ☐ General Maps
- ☐ NARCCAP Maps
- ☐ CMIP3 Maps

General Maps

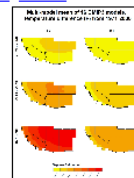
[Add Image](#)

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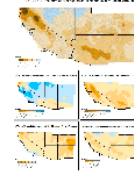
CMIP3 Precip Mean
Difference
Jul 15, 2011

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)



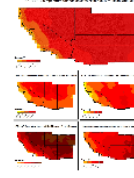
CMIP3 Temp Mean
Difference
Jul 15, 2011

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NARCCAP Annual and
Season Combined
Precip
Jul 15, 2011

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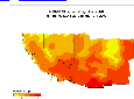
NARCCAP Annual and
Seasonal Combined
Temp
Jul 15, 2011

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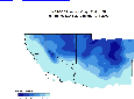
NARCCAP Annual
Average # Days Daily
Precip > 1 inch
Jul 15, 2011

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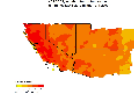
NARCCAP Annual
Average # Days with
Max Temp > 95F
Jul 15, 2011

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)



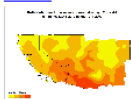
NARCCAP Annual
Average # Days with
Min Temp < 10F
Jul 15, 2011

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NARCCAP Average
Annual Max #
Consecutive Days with
Min Temp < 32F
Jul 15, 2011

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)



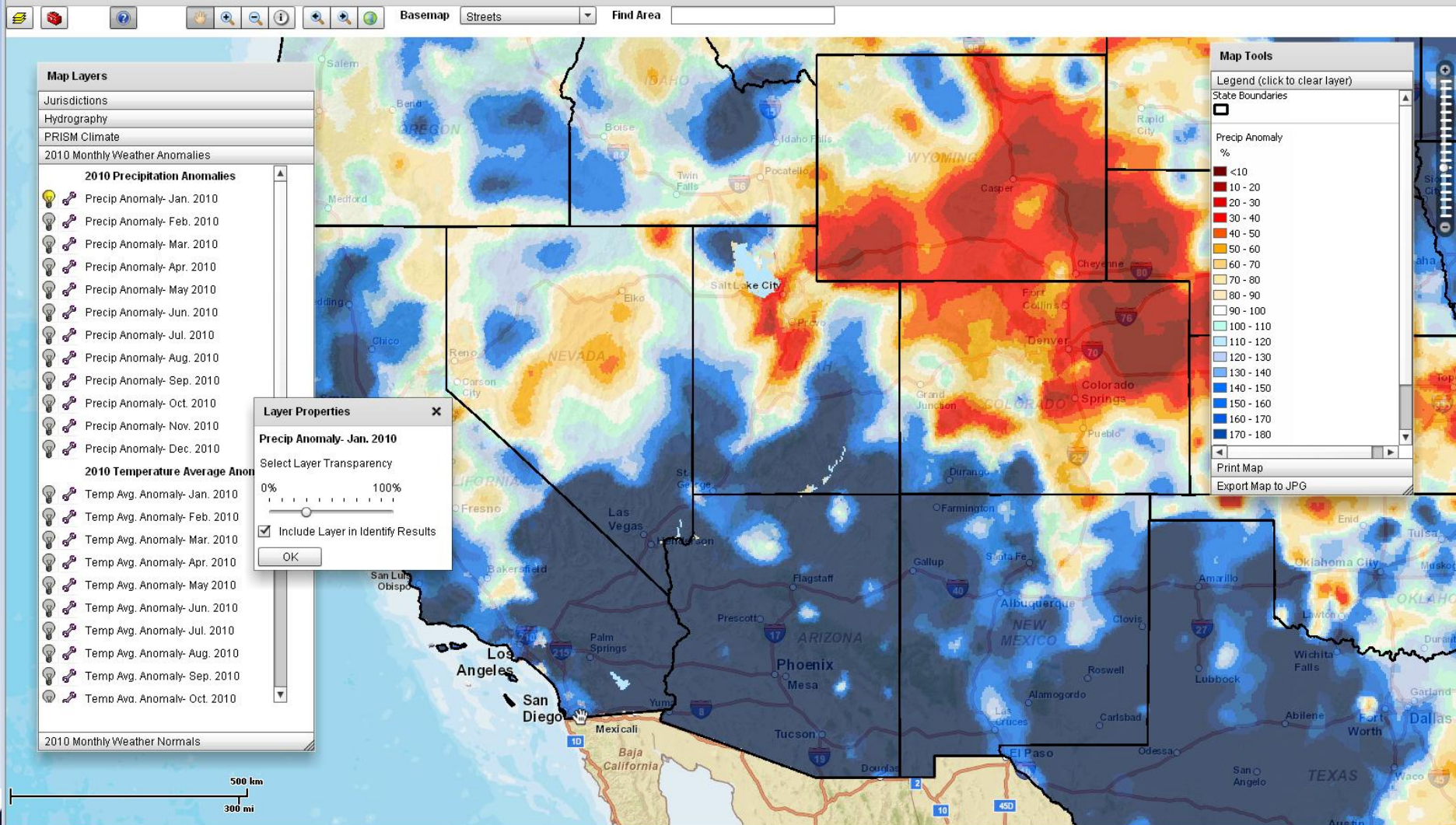
NARCCAP Average
Annual Max Consecutive
Days with Max Temp >
95F
Jul 15, 2011

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NARCCAP Cooling
Degree Days
Jul 15, 2011

NCA Southwest Viewer

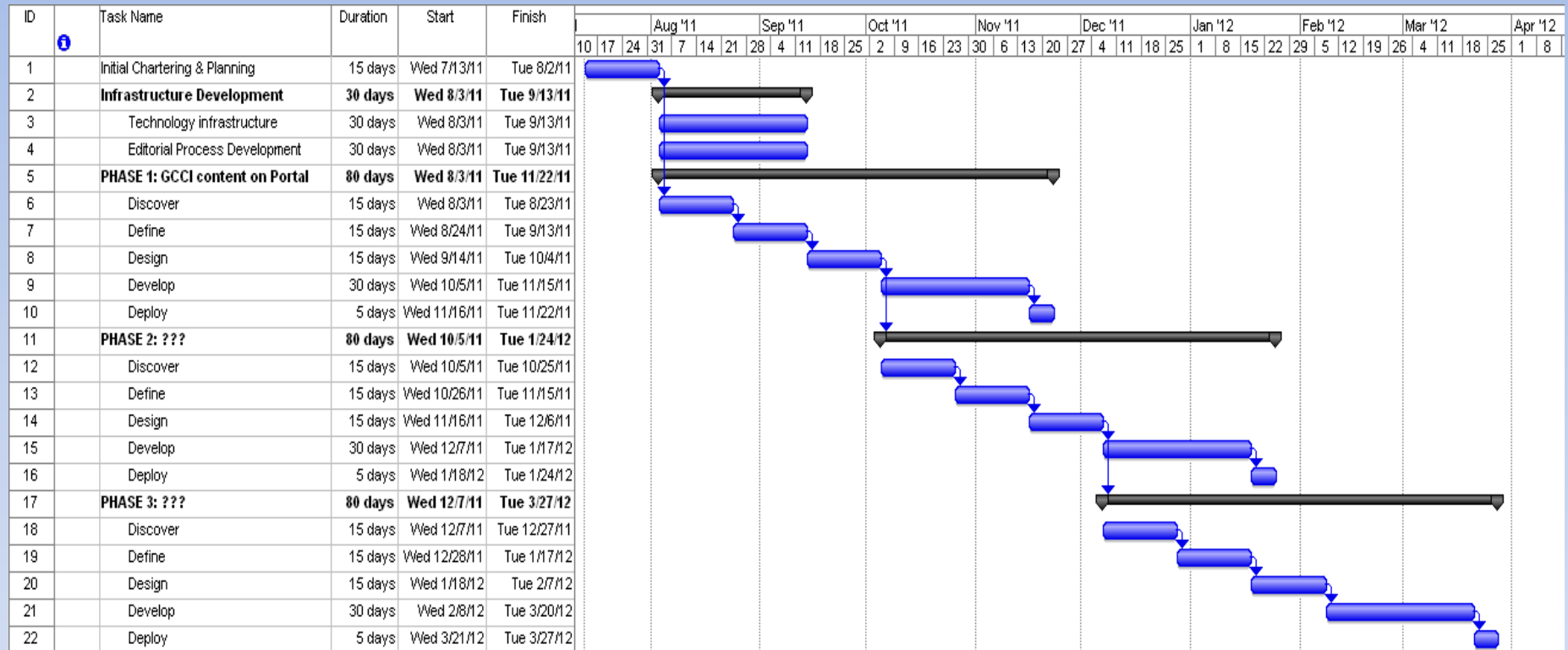


- Progress to date
 - Update on Vision, Strategy and Governance
 - Collaborative workspaces
- **Next Steps**

Immediate next steps

- **Detailed strategy and implementation plans**
- Portal manager and implementation leads will develop more detailed project scope and plan
 - Editorial, data, technical – agile and evaluative
 - This will need to reflect advice from the FAC and its WGs!
 - Will be delivered to the GCRP Principals ahead of the next FAC meeting
 - Will include timeline and specific releases
 - Identify working teams for the implementation
- Concurrently....
 - **Deploy 2009 site**
 - **Deploy collaborative portals**

Phased and Iterative Development



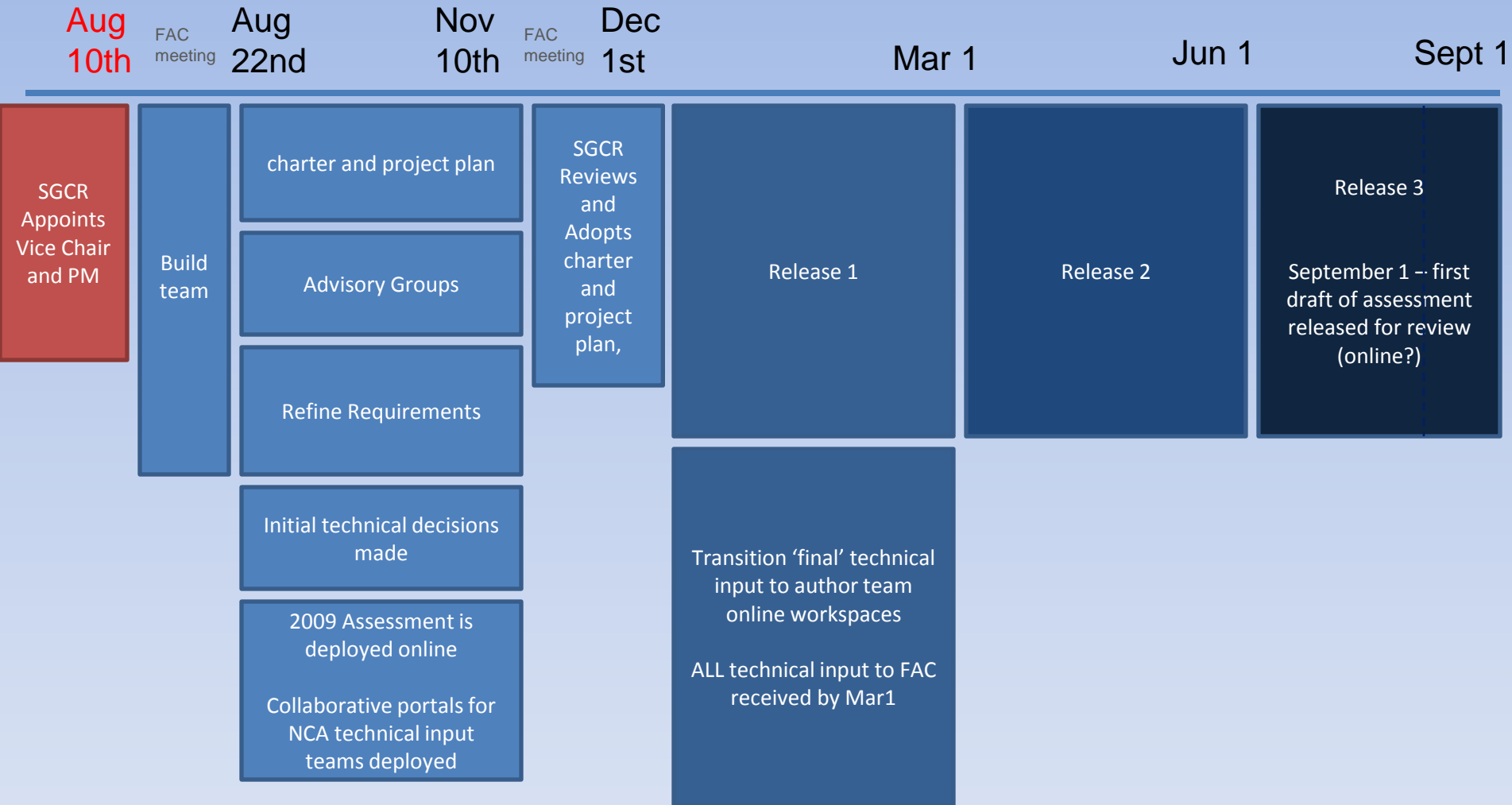
Portal Components

What ongoing work can be used as leverage?

The collage features several web portals:

- EPA Climate Change:** Includes a search bar, navigation links (Contact Us, Search, All EPA, This Area), and a main section titled "Glaciers around the world are shrinking, and the amount of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean has decreased since the 1970s." It also has a "Quick Finder" for various programs and a "Basic Information" section.
- NOAA Climate Services:** A "Prototype" site with navigation for NOAA HOME, WEATHER, OCEANS, FISHERIES, CHARTING, SATELLITES, CLIMATE, RESEARCH, COASTS, and GARDENS. It features sections for "Articles" (e.g., "2011 Atlantic Hurricane Outlook"), "Videos" (e.g., "Meet NOAA's climate scientists"), and "Images".
- Ocean portal:** A site from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History with navigation for Ocean Life & Ecosystems, Photo Essays, The Ocean Over Time, Ocean Science, The Ocean & You, and For Educators. It features a large image of tuna with the headline "TUNAS IN TROUBLE".
- NASA Global Climate Change:** A site from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with a "Vital Signs of the Planet" section showing data for Arctic sea ice, carbon dioxide, sea level, global temperature, and land ice. It also includes a "Tracking air quality from above" section.
- U.S. Department of the Interior:** A site with a "Climate Change - Adaptation and Decision Support" section, featuring a "Resources for:" list (Public, Governments, Businesses, Native Americans, Tourists, Employees, Press & Media) and a "How Do I Find?" section.
- US Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center:** A site with navigation for CCR, Climate Basics, Topics, Tools, Video Lectures, Current Projects, Library, and Search. It features a "Climate Change Assessments" map and a "Start Here for a climate change primer" section.

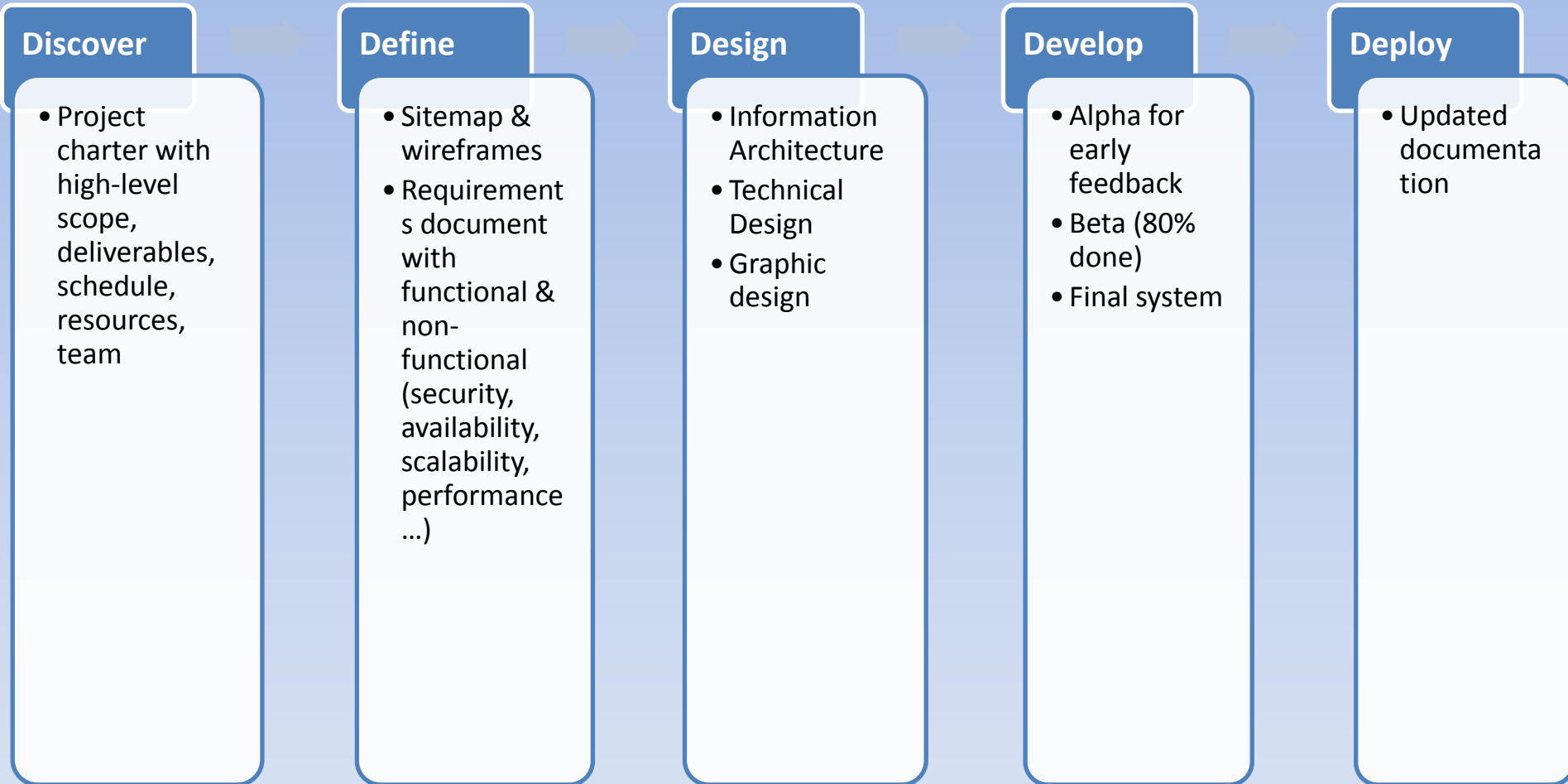
Timeline for initial steps on the GCIP portal



Backup



Strategy: Structured approach



Considerations

- **Quality** – report must be (and look!) authoritative - meet IQA
 - Must consider archiving snapshot graphics and underlying data (reproducibility)
 - Encyclopedia-style for main report? (Wikipedia-like design)
- **Data Access** – must be more accessible than in the past
 - Use distributed data framework
 - But some data will be new, external to the govt, and discrete (archive considerations)
- **Usability** – Congress, students, scientists, decision-makers
 - All are ‘the audience’ for the assessment, but should we limit focus for phase I?
 - Link to sites that provide tools to apply information

Major questions

– Ownership

- How does this site interact with other climate and global change resources?
- Continued interagency and multi-partner engagement

– Editorial Process

- How do we relate the web to the print? Are we building the web resource first and deriving the print from it?
- If print is being deployed online, then there will be limited advantage in using web for checking accuracy
- Can we create derived products? E.g. fact sheets, FAQs, primers, and who decides what?

– Who is it for?

- Should we be targeting only some of the audience for this phase?

– Data Archiving

- Needs to link to distributed data.
- And how do we decide collectively who archives ‘new’ data if needed

And one concern – ‘features’ should not trump process. Still work to do on improving editorial process and rigor

Congressional Mandate

The Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990 (P.L. 101-606, section 104, part d) mandate states:

“INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.--The Plan shall provide recommendations for collaboration within the Federal Government and among nations to:

- Establish, develop, and maintain information bases, including necessary management systems which will promote consistent, efficient, and compatible transfer and use of data;
- Create globally accessible formats for data collected by various international sources; and
- Combine and interpret data from various sources to produce information readily usable by policymakers attempting to formulate effective strategies for preventing, mitigating, and adapting to the effects of global change.”

Executive Branch Calls for a Portal

- **National Climate Adaptation Summit**, called for by John Holdren, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, issued “seven priorities for near-term action” in 2010, including
 “Creating a federal climate information portal.
 This would provide single-point access to data from all relevant federal agencies and programs and would evolve over time into a more ‘national’ portal with information about relevant non-federal efforts.”
- **Executive Office of the President**, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS) Roundtable on Climate Information Services called for
 an **interagency climate information portal plan**,
 focusing on National Climate Assessment

What's the problem we're trying to solve?

- “I need a single source of authoritative, usable, and timely global change information.”
- For example, congressional testimony of Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy Robert Winokur, 6/22/11:
“The Navy desires access to readily available, reliable and consistent data and information in an easily available and preferably consolidated location to move away from the current disparate method of locating and obtaining climate information...”